

Local

Deputy Amir shows full support to Kuwait fight against corruption

Bring anyone responsible to justice equally: Sheikh Nawaf

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Chairman of Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim, who presented to His Highness the Deputy Amir thanked Nazaha members for their efforts in fighting all forms of corruption and achieving justice. He affirmed the need to bring anyone responsible of corruption to justice equally, no matter what their identity may be. His Highness the Deputy Amir also noted that all state's institutions will support Nazaha to execute its tasks. His Highness the Deputy Amir also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Abdulaziz Al-Ibrahim. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Foreign Minister receives credentials of new ambassadors

KUWAIT: Foreign Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah received yesterday the new Dutch Ambassador to Kuwait Laurens Westhoff, new Sudanese Ambassador Abdulmunem Al-Ameen, and new Austrian Ambassador Marian Wrba, who presented copies of their credentials. Sheikh Dr Ahmad wished the new ambassadors best of luck in their tenures, and for bilateral relations to further develop. Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Dhari Al-Ajran and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's office Saleh Al-Loughani attended the meetings.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad received Ambassador of the Vatican to Kuwait Rev Francisco Padilla on the occasion of ending his tenure. Sheikh Dr Ahmad commended Padilla's contributions to boosting relations between the two countries. Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's office Saleh Al-Loughani attended the meeting. In the meantime, Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad received the acclaimed Kuwaiti inventor Jenan Al-Shehab. Sheikh Ahmad congratulated Shehab for bringing the State of Kuwait into global prominence, winning a gold medal and two international awards as 'the top woman inventor at the global level' at the Toronto international inventions exhibition in 2020. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Foreign Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah receives a copy of the credentials of the new Dutch Ambassador to Kuwait Laurens Westhoff. — KUNA photos



Foreign Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah receives a copy of the credentials of the new Sudanese Ambassador Abdulmunem Al-Ameen.



Foreign Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah receives a copy of the credentials of the new Austrian Ambassador Marian Wrba.



Foreign Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of the Vatican to Kuwait Rev Francisco Padilla.

UAE, Bahrain normalize ties...

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division and conflict we mark the dawn of a new Middle East. We're here this afternoon to change the course of history." Flags of the United States, Israel, the UAE and Bahrain were in abundance. He called it "a major stride in which people of all faiths and backgrounds live together in peace and prosperity" and declared that the three Middle East countries "are going to work together, they are friends."

Hundreds of Palestinians protested yesterday against the normalization deals as the White House hosted the signing ceremony. Clutching Palestinian flags and wearing blue facemasks for protection against the novel coronavirus, demonstrators rallied in the West Bank cities of Nablus and Hebron and in the Gaza Strip. Hundreds also took part in a demonstration in Ramallah, home of the Palestinian Authority. Banners were displayed at the protests, reading "Treason", "No to normalization with the (Israeli) occupier" and "The agreements of shame". In Gaza, protesters trampled on and set fire to

placards of the leaders. "We say to the Bahraini regime and the Emirates that this normalization is a total betrayal of the Palestinian cause and the hopes of the Arab nation," said Ahmad Al-Medallal, an Islamic Jihad official in Gaza. The signing of normalization agreements with Israel marks a "black day" for the Arab world, Palestinian prime minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said Monday.

Israel and the US have for years pressed Gulf countries to establish relations with the Jewish state, particularly in light of their shared animosity towards Iran. The Jewish state has previously signed peace deals with just two Arab nations, Egypt and Jordan, in 1979 and 1994, respectively.

With Trump up for re-election on Nov 3, the accords could help shore up support among pro-Israel Christian evangelical voters, an important part of his political base. Speaking to Fox News hours before the ceremony, Trump predicted the Palestinians would eventually join forge peace with Israel or else be "left out in the cold". Some differences remain despite warming ties. Trump said yesterday he would have no problem selling advanced stealth F-35 fighter jets to the UAE, which for years has sought to obtain them. But Israel, which has the F-35, has made clear it still objects to such a sale. — Agencies

on a rocky planet other than Earth.

Reacting to the study, Alan Duffy, an astronomer from Swinburne University and Lead Scientist of The Royal Institution of Australia, said it while it was tempting to believe that the phosphine was produced by life forms, "we have to rule out all possible other non-biological means of producing it". He called the finding "one of the most exciting signs of the possible presence of life beyond Earth I have ever seen".

Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate, which has conducted several fly-bys of Venus, called Monday's research "intriguing". Venus, which rotates in the opposite direction to Earth and where a day lasts 243 times longer, is a subject of intense interest among astronomers. It is so close and of such similar size to our home planet that some experts believe it serves as a warning of the dangers of runaway climate change. Previous studies have unearthed tantalizing clues suggesting Venus has active volcanoes, including signs of recent lava flows. — AFP

Gas found on Venus linked to...

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The researchers conducted several modeling calculations in a bid to explain the new phosphine production. They concluded that their research provided evidence "for anomalous and unexplained chemistry" on Venus.

Lead author Jane Greaves, from Cardiff University's School of Physics and Astronomy told AFP that the presence of phosphine alone was not proof of life on Earth's next-door neighbor. "I don't think we can say that - even if a planet was abundant in phosphorus, it might lack something else important to life - some other element, or conditions might be too hot, too dry," she said. Greaves added that it was the first time phosphine had been found

Firefighters put out new Beirut blaze

BEIRUT: Firefighters in Lebanon's capital said yesterday they put out a fire at a building under construction, in what was the third blaze to hit the city since a massive explosion at the port. The building, located about 1.5 km away from the city's port in central Beirut, was designed by the renowned late British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid.

Footage shared on social media showed black clouds of smoke billowing off of bright red flames that climbed up the side of the curvaceous building with latticed covering. AFP reporters at the scene saw firefighters use a crane to aim water hoses at its smoldering facade. "What was on fire was the insulation that separates the

outside from the inside" of the building, a civil defense officer told AFP. "We were able in the fastest time possible to control" the blaze, he said.

It was not immediately clear what caused the fire. The Aug 4 explosion at the port, one of the world's largest non-nuclear blasts ever, killed 190 people, wounded thousands and ravaged building windows and doors in large parts of the city. It was followed by a small fire on Tuesday last week at the port and another huge fire on Thursday at a port warehouse where food aid was stored.

Both the explosion and port fires have revived popular outrage against a political class accused of being inept, corrupt and unable to ensure public safety. Preliminary government findings said sparks from a power saw could have caused Thursday's blaze, echoing a theory that welding was also behind the Aug 4 explosion. — AFP

Number of infected MPs...

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Meanwhile, the Amiri Diwan confirmed yesterday that HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received veteran politician Ahmad Al-Khatib.

Iran warns US after Trump...

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He warned that reacting to such reports would "achieve nothing but disruption to the region and to world calm" and advised Trump to "refrain from fresh adventurism... for the sake of winning a new term as president".

On Monday, Iran's foreign ministry denied the report of an assassination plot as "baseless" and part of "repetitive and rotten methods to create an anti-Iranian atmosphere". Relations between Washington and Tehran have been tense ever since the Islamic revolution of 1979. They have deteriorated sharply since Trump unilaterally pulled out of a landmark international nuclear deal with Iran in May 2018 and reimposed crippling sanctions.

The 93-year-old Khatib is a liberal politician who was one of the members who wrote the Kuwaiti constitution in 1961 and was elected to the National Assembly several times.

The Amiri Diwan published no details about the meeting, only saying it tackled topics that seek the benefit of the nation, adding that details of the meeting published on social media are untrue.

MP Abdullah Fahhad said a state of optimism has prevailed after the meeting. Former liberal MP Saleh Al-Mulla said the meeting is very important in its timing and objectives.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday declined to comment directly on the reported threat to Lana Marks, the US ambassador to South Africa, who is a close ally of Trump. But Pompeo told Fox News that "the Islamic Republic of Iran has engaged in assassination efforts all across the world. They have assassinated people in Europe and in other parts of the world. We take these... allegations seriously."

"We make very clear to the Islamic Republic of Iran that this kind of activity - attacking any American any place at any time, whether it's an American diplomat, an ambassador or one of our service members - is completely unacceptable."

The Iranian navy last week said it drove off US aircraft that flew close to an area where naval exercises were underway near the Strait of Hormuz. The military said three US aircraft were detected by air defenses. One of them was a US RQ-4 drone, the same model as one shot down by Iran in June last year after allegedly violating Iranian airspace - a claim the US has denied— AFP